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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 21 | Humidity 60% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 62,027 | Nifty 18,314 | Gold 60,898 | Silver 73,100 | Dollar 82.26 | Euro 89.98 | GBP 102.39

LOST & NOT FOUND

229 girls went missing in state in March

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BRIDGE CROSSED

Key to prevent flooding in Bellandur

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Nearly 10,000 families dependent on buses affected by decision to discontinue some routes post-covid

LAST STOP

B'luru group conducts audits, submits list of bus stops to BMTC

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Even as the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) progresses towards live-tracking of buses, people from vulnerable communities are still struggling due to a lack of bus services post-covid. Nearly 10,000 families dependent on buses for primary transport have been affected by the decision to discontinue certain routes post-covid.

A Bengaluru group, Purpose, is working towards reviving bus routes for people from vulnerable communities. Routes essential to the professional and personal needs of nearly nine communities were discontinued before covid and are yet to be resumed. Without these essential routes, these people are forced to spend too much on transportation alone.

As part of the 'Fair Transition Project', which aims at placing vulnerable communities at the forefront of low carbon transition in Bengaluru, conducted a series of audits and walks. Along with 120 women across eight communities, the group held these walks to identify the key problems.

As per the results, communities faced issues with a lack of appropriate bus stops and first/last

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"While some bus passes were announced for the organised sector, there is a need to increase the bus fleet and improve bus routes. After 2020, several bus routes were discontinued and are yet to be restarted

– Mallika Arya, sr campaigner, Purpose

Task cut out for new CM

Citizen activists suggest checklist for what should be priority for incoming govt

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as we await the new government, citizens have hopes, expectations and demands to upgrade brand Bengaluru. Bangalore Mirror spoke to a few activists to find out what they wanted the new Chief Minister to take up on priority.

Here's what we learnt: Mobility issues are number one on the list. Governance, filling up vacant posts, development that doesn't compromise on environment and a municipal body with elected representatives -- not too much to ask for, citizens feel.

"Free bus travel for women, students and senior citizens has been one of our key demands. We look forward to this being implemented at the earliest. BMTC fleet expansion is another aspect. The promise of 10,000 in 5 years (in the manifesto) is too slow, we need to get to 10,000 buses in 2-3 years. There was another promise to increase public transport share to 70%, a quick growth of fleet will be essential for this too. Many other measures such

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NEW CM: ALL WE KNOW SO FAR

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Ride smooth

This summer, grab the chance to celebrate the spirit of inclusivity and diversity in motoring. Yokohama presents a unique form of rally in which any female driver with a regular street car is eligible to participate. The Women on Wheels (WOW) Yokohama will also award the best themed car and cash prize for the winners.
Where: Sheraton Whitefield to Vineyard and back
When: Sunday, May 21; 7:30 am to 6 pm
Registre: https://www.yokohama-india.com/event/wow

02 Mandala love

If you are into Mandala art, you can participate in a workshop that brings one of the best artists, Chandrima Mandal, who is an expert at training people. It is beginner friendly and gives you a chance to learn how to paint various shapes. It is being presented by Banjara Gipsy.
Where: watch on Zoom
When: Saturday, May 20; 3 pm

03 Play scenes

Akarsh Khurana is going to adapt and direct The Verdict by Margaret May Hobbs, presented by Akvarious Productions. The play is about a lawyer who gets a wake-up call after he comes across medical wrongdoing. The play is being produced by Saatvika Kantamneni.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: Friday, May 19- Saturday May 20

Hard work pays off

Students in Koramangala celebrate after ICSE Class 10 and ISC Class 12 results were declared on Sunday. Overall, six students secured first merit positions in ICSE and five students in ISC across the country. Bengaluru girl Ananya Karthik bagged first place in ICSE exams. The CISCE declared Class 10 and 12 results, with 98.94% and 96.93% of students, respectively, clearing the exams. Girls outshone boys, with nine students sharing the top rank in Class 10 and five sharing first rank in Class 12.

Taxis: Panic button is need of the hour?

Commuters raise concern over safety when travelling on public transport, especially bike taxis operating without valid licence; they demand integration of police helpline

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The Delhi government recently announced a draft Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme 2023, which aims to regulate aggregators and delivery service providers. Residents of the city believe that Bengaluru is also in desperate need of such a scheme.

According to the scheme, it is mandatory for aggregators to install a panic button in all the vehicles providing the service, while also integrating it with the 112 Delhi Police emergency helpline. It also includes a mechanism to address consumer grievances in a timely fashion and has made it compulsory for drivers with poor performance to undergo remedial training.

"Safety concerns with regard to aggregators, especially the bike taxis, are very serious. While women and others still choose to travel with them since they are economical as well as more reliable when compared to public transportation systems, a panic button connecting to the police helpline will certainly make them feel much safer. Knowing that they can resort to the button in case of an emergency is empowering enough," said Ananya Nadagouda, an employee who frequently commutes with the assistance of aggregator applications.

Recently, an incident involving a 30-year-old woman jumping off a moving Rapido bike to save herself from the rider, who tried to sexually harass her, came to light, causing waves of concern in the city. Further, a friend of the victim alleged that the police refused to take immediate action despite the matter being taken to them with urgency.

Citing this incident, Ananya said that the police must also be provided with sensitivity training programmes in order for them to deal with these cases with the utmost care.

"While aggregators have provided the option of sharing the trip details with trusted contacts of the customer and a panic button, it is very much necessary to integrate it with the police helpline to ensure safety," said Vasudha Zora, another commuter.

Currently, in Karnataka, the government has allowed the operation of only e-bike taxis under the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme, 2021. However, petrol-run bike taxis from Rapido and Uber can be seen plying around the city without the transport department doing much scrutiny, as the Karnataka High Court in August 2021 directed them not to take coercive action against bike taxis after Roppen Transportation Services Pvt Ltd, the company that aggregates bike taxis through the Rapido app, filed a petition.

In Karnataka, the government has allowed the operation of only e-bike taxis, but petrol run bikes can be seen plying

> **"These bike taxis are running without a valid licence. Who is to blame and held accountable when things go wrong?**
> –Zohaib, a commuter

"These bike taxis are running without a valid licence. Who is to blame and held accountable when things go wrong? The government must take note of the recurring instances of violations and churn out a scheme at the earliest," said Zohaib, a commuter who uses the aggregators for first and last mile connectivity.

The scheme has also mandated aggregators as well as delivery service providers to eventually switch from conventional vehicles to electric ones.

The goal is to convert the entire fleet of vehicles to electric by April 1, 2030. The move has come in the background of reducing pollution and beginning a transition of commercial vehicles towards electric transportation.

229 girls went missing in state in March; child activists say numbers hiding more than they reveal

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Researchers in the city have pointed to the lackadaisical approach by police in case of girls being abducted. From asking parents to wait and see if the child has eloped to not wanting to file FIRs under relevant sections, cops are said to try several tactics in such cases.

Police data shows that there has been a rise in the number of girls gone missing in the state in March, as compared to February. Karnataka witnessed 535 cases of girls being kidnapped and abducted under section 360, 361, 363 to 369 of IPC in the first three months of 2023. In comparison to that, 189 boys have gone missing in 2023, which means three girls have been kidnapped for every one boy.

According to the state police data, in March, 229 girls went missing which was a 49 per cent increase from 153 cases reported in February.

According to activist Brinda Adige, when girls are abducted, the police often ask parents to wait for some time and instead claim that the girl could have eloped with her lover.

"When the cases are brought to the police station, they would ask you to wait. They would ask the complainants if they have checked everywhere. If the girl hasn't returned home in a week, we approach the police again, but many times they refuse to file a kidnapping case. And this happens especially in human trafficking cases, after the girl has been rescued, many times police would convince the parents to not file an FIR under IPC 370," she said.

She added that the police don't want to show on record that cases of human trafficking are on a rise and also they are not willing to investigate. Brinda added that despite having cameras across the city, it is difficult to catch the crime in real time because they are hardly monitored.

> **"The numbers that are presented by the crime records bureau or the police are mala fide because the police officers are not willing to register complaints under kidnapping or trafficking cases**

"There are CCTV cameras, but they are rarely monitored. If you randomly go to any police station, you will notice that nobody is sitting there to monitor these cameras. The police say that they don't have enough manpower for regular monitoring and recently from the past couple of months the police have been engaged in bandobast duty," she said.

Gender researcher Paati said that in several cases of abduction, there is negligence from police's side as they try to convince parents that the girl might have eloped.

"The numbers that are presented by the crime records bureau or the police are mala fide because the police are not willing to register complaints under kidnapping on trafficking. There is an urgent need for police to track down the gangs that are involved in abduction," Paati said. According to the researcher, all the news about police having busted a racket are just tip of the iceberg. "We don't realise that the network must have been functioning for years. There is a need for the police to take abduction cases seriously and try to understand the pattern; that is how we will be able to rescue girls as well," said Paati.

Student claims cops assaulted him, cousin

A college student took to twitter and claimed that his cousin and he were assaulted by policemen in Anekal. According to Sairaj Natraj, the incident occurred around 7:30 pm at Chandapura Circle, on Saturday.

"We were going on our bike to eat food and the traffic was too high because of election result celebrations and also the market that takes place every Saturday. We were passing through the slow moving traffic and a policeman (Krishnamurthy S, anekal station, from what we know) stopped our side of the traffic and we stopped. When we were allowed to go, I went straight but we wanted to go right, so my cousin said 'right hogo'." he tweeted.

According to him the policeman assumed that they had scolded him and came running to them. "He scolded us vulgarly and took the key and threatened us saying they would seize the bike. My brother resisted giving the bike. We asked what we had done to threaten us like that and he started to abuse in a very vulgar manner," tweeted Natraj.

He further claimed that the policeman dragged him and his cousin and there were five policemen present there. The policemen then allegedly started abusing them and caning them. "They abused us with filthiest words in Kannada. We were shivering to death, with the amount of lathi they charged on us. Since there was no problem at our end, I tried taking out my phone to call my parents. They beat us again and threatened to beat us if we moved an inch. We sat there helplessly for more than 45 minutes. With no other option, we begged them to let us go and they gave back the keys," claimed Natraj. **BMB**

Karnataka DGP Sood is new CBI Director

Praveen Sood, an IPS officer from the 1986 batch of the Karnataka cadre, has been appointed as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by a high-level selection committee.

Currently serving as the Director General of Police (DGP) in Karnataka, Sood brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.

The selection committee, comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, unanimously agreed on Sood's appointment as the next CBI Director.

The decision was made during a meeting held on Saturday evening. The appointment comes as the tenure of the current CBI Director, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal is set to conclude on May 25.

Sood's impressive career spans several decades, during which he has served in various key positions within the police force. His appointment as the CBI Director is a testament to his dedication, professionalism, and track record in maintaining law and order. With his extensive experience in the IPS, Sood is well-equipped to lead the country's premier investigative agency. **–IANS**

Police go after flex menace; file FIR

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The residents of Hemmigepura had raised multiple concerns about the rampant placement of illegal flexes and banners on electric poles across Kanakapura main road. A private property builder had put up banners on the electric poles for the sale of two and three BHK apartments. The posters were put up across many poles, and the residents had raised the issue multiple times.

However, the Thalaghattapura police came forward and filed an FIR against the company themselves. They noticed that many advertisements were out on electric poles near Coca-Cola road and 100 feet Kanakapura main road, which violated the court order for advertisements of flexes and banners.

A resident from Kanakapura said, "The indiscriminate display of flexes and banners on electric poles not only obstructs visibility but also poses a potential threat to the electrical infrastructure. Furthermore, the illegal flexes and banners contribute to environmental degradation. They are often made of non-biodegradable materials that do not decompose naturally. As a result, when they are eventually removed or torn down, they add to the growing problem of waste accumulation in the city."

The police official added that they have filed a complaint and will take strict action in this regard. "The presence of these illegal flexes and banners on electric poles creates a cluttered and unappealing visual landscape. They not only disrupt the natural beauty of the surroundings but also contribute to visual pollution. It creates a negative impact on the city's aesthetics, safety, and overall environment," said the official.

The residents appreciated the efforts of the police. They said this would help prevent illegal flexes and banners being put up. "The indiscriminate use of flexes has been a matter of grave concern. We appreciate that the police officials have taken action. Illegal flexes pose safety concerns. We have seen in the past how some people have lost their lives due to the banners falling on them. We want the BBMP and police to work together to take up a drive to remove flexes."

Mahadevapura all set to arch over choppy water

New Bellandur Bridge to be completed in next 75 days; old one to be razed

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With the heavy rains causing the Bellandur lake to overflow and submerging many parts of Mahadevapura, this time the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is not taking any chances. After inspecting the area, the Palike has come out with a plan to construct a new 24-metre bridge at Bellandur Kodi. The bridge aims to prevent flooding and is set to be completed in the next 75 days.

Residents of the area recalled that when the water had overflowed in September last year, its flow at the Bellandur bridge was heavy. After a thorough inspection, it was found that the current bridge didn't have enough capacity to hold the water. Hence, a new bridge is being built. The foundation stone for the bridge had been laid by Mahadevapura MLA Arvind Limbavali during September's end.

Clement Jayakumar from Mahadevapura Task Force said, "The water coming out of the Bellandur lake goes under the bridge, and from there it goes under the Bellandur canal and then reaches the Varthur Lake. As the capacity of the bridge was not enough, the water overflowed onto the roads, which resulted in flooding. Now, the BBMP SWD is working on the construction of a new bridge so that more water can flow under the bridge and the old bridge will be demolished."

As of now, the traffic is not restricted, as commuters are still moving through the old bridge. Once the new bridge is constructed and completed, the old bridge will be demolished.

Jayakumar added that the existing bridge had smaller pipes and the water flow was not adequate.

> **"Many bridges that were constructed decades before didn't have enough capacity, which impacted the water flow below the bridge** – Clement Jayakumar, MTF

"As a broader problem of flooding, many of the bridges that were constructed decades before didn't have enough capacity, which impacted the water flow below the bridge and caused flooding. We are not installing larger pipes in the new bridge to ease the water flow. The new bridge's concrete work has been completed, and it has been left to cure for 20 days. The side wall preparation is going to start. In the next 75 days, the bridge will be ready to use. The parapet wall and slopes on both sides of the bridge are yet to be done," he explained.

However, some of the regular commuters complained about slow work progress and the traffic congestion on the stretch.

"The lack of efficient traffic management and inadequate safety measures on this road have led to significant traffic congestion. The absence of alternative traffic arrangements has added to the inconvenience faced by commuters. Unfortunately, the timing of the construction work seems ill-suited, causing further troubles. The progress of the project has been sluggish," said a resident of the area.

Officials said concrete work of the new bridge in Bellandur is completed and it has been left to cure for 20 days. Preparations will soon begin to construct the side walls

Don't let this drain work be in vain

Belathur residents say half-done work is creating mosquito and snake trouble

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Work on a drain left half-done by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike has left residents of Belathur in a fix as the stagnant water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and poses a snake threat.

The BBMP had knocked down the walls of a few apartment complexes in October 2021, stating that they line in the path of a rajakaluve. Subsequently, drain work was taken up, but for two months now, work has been halted. The half-constructed structure is proving to be a pain for the residents of the area, especially after the rain.

A resident of the area told BM that officials had claimed that as per maps, a rajakaluve was going through the stretch. "The new drain would pass from 1st Main Road to an apartment complex, have a junction and pass through our apartment complex side and connect to the Dakshina Pinakini River eventually through Medahalli Lake. For the past two-three years, we were facing flooding issues and officials started the drain work. We had to give away a portion of the apartment space. But still, work has not been completed. For the past two months, no work has happened. Every time it rains, the water collects there. We are facing increased mosquito menace and have to fog every three days," he said.

Water collects and stagnates on the drain in Belathur as work on it has halted for past two months

Residents say that they have no hope that the drain work will be completed. "Our walls have cracks now and snakes are crawling inside the premises. Kids are getting sick frequently these days," he added.

Another resident Kuldeep said that residents are in deep trouble due to this. "In 2021, the marshals and police officers came and broke our compound wall. We had asked officials to show us any documents or court orders about that. Though initially, we opposed the move, later we agreed. Now, it's learnt that some local people are opposing the construction. Officials are not able to complete the rajakaluve work," he said.

Officials from the BBMP's stormwater drain department say that the drain needs to be re-surveyed, which was delayed due to elections. "There is a survey issue regarding the rajakaluve. The rajakaluves are being marked by the revenue surveyor and work will restart after that. Due to elections, revenue department officials were busy. We will follow up with them to survey it soon," said a senior BBMP official.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

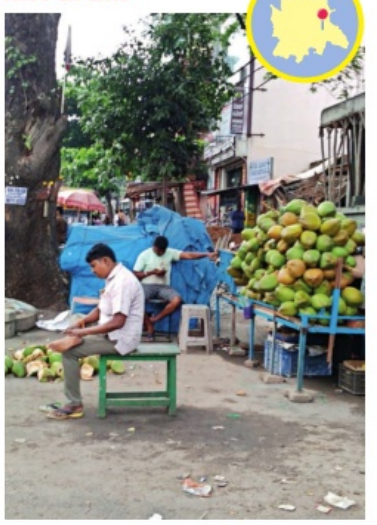
Unfinished business

Jayanagar

The footpath at 9th Main Road, opposite the BSNL office, in the 4th block of Jayanagar, Ward 179, hasn't been cemented in a year.

Blocked

KR Puram



A coconut seller is blocking the footpath opposite Rama Hospital at the KR Puram bus stop.

Mistaken identity

Ashwath Nagar

On Ramaiah Hospital Road in Ashwath Nagar, there's a parking space for two-wheelers, but all other vehicles are parked here.

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

5 mothers get new lease of life, thanks to their children

Unique Mother's Day at Manipal Hospitals

Manipal Hospitals celebrated a unique Mother's Day by commemorating the lives of mothers after being saved by their children through organ transplants.

This year, Manipal Hospitals celebrated Mother's Day in a novel manner. India's second-largest healthcare chain shared a few remarkable stories of children who donated their organs to save the lives of their mothers. In a specially organised event, five mothers (kidney + liver recipients) shared their journey of emotions and torment experienced during their illness, and how their children (donors) changed their lives forever. The event was inaugurated by renowned Kannada actress Amrutha Iyengar, accompanied by her mother S Bhargavi KS.

Kannada actress Amrutha Iyengar, accompanied by her mother S Bhargavi KS inaugurated a Mother's Day event at Manipal Hospitals

Brave mothers

During the event, five mothers who suffered from end-stage renal and liver disease expressed their gratitude to their children who donated their organs because they prioritized their mothers' lives over their own. There are many myths regarding organ donation around the world, including in India, regarding the health of the donor and the recipient which had to be debunked. Hence, Manipal Hospitals invited these organ recipients (mothers) and donors (children) to the event. They were Sushila Javanth (60), who received a kidney from her son Ravi Kumar (32), Vijayalakshmi (49), who received a portion of the liver from her daughter (20), Kakoli Biswas (51), who received a portion of the liver from her son Raya Biswas (21), Nusrath (47), who received a kidney from her son Ayan Kaleem (20), and Dhanalakshmi (41), who received a portion of the liver from her son Tharun Kumar (22).

Son Saves Mother's Life with a Kidney Donation

Nusrath, a 47-year-old resident of Bengaluru, started experiencing kidney-related issues in January 2020. Despite initial treatments, her condition deteriorated, and she was diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease. Driven by the urgency to find a donor, her 17-year-old son, Ayan, expressed his willingness to donate his kidney. However, due to age restrictions, they had to wait until Ayan turned 18. When Ayan reached the eligible age, Dr Deepak Kumar Chitralli, Senior Consultant - Nephrologist and Transplant Physician at Manipal Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, performed the transplant procedure in September 2022. Before the surgery, both Nusrath and Ayan underwent tests to ensure compatibility and minimize complications. Following the successful surgery, Nusrath and Ayan were kept under observation for a few days before being discharged. Now, after eight months, both mother and son have made a full recovery and resumed their normal lives, grateful for the life-saving gift of a son's selfless act.

Daughter Saves Mother's Life with a Selfless Liver Donation

Kakoli Biswas, a 51-year-old resident of Bengaluru, had been battling liver illness since 2013. Despite initially neglecting her medication, her condition worsened over time. Seeking help from doctors at Manipal Hospital, she started taking regular medications, but in 2020, she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that didn't respond well to treatment. In late 2021, Kakoli consulted Dr Rajiv Lochan, Lead Consultant in HPB and Liver Transplantation Surgery at Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur and Old Airport Road. Recognizing the severity of her condition, Dr Lochan recommended a liver transplant. Although initially hesitant, Kakoli's perspective changed after discussions with Dr Lochan, and she registered for organ donation. Unaware of her mother's deteriorating health, Kakoli's daughter, Raya Biswas, discovered the truth during a routine check-up. Without hesitation, Raya offered to donate her liver, but Kakoli worried about potential health complications for her daughter. After reassurances from the doctor that the donation would not harm Raya, Kakoli agreed to her daughter's selfless decision. Before the surgery, Dr Lochan conducted tests and prescribed a specific diet for both the recipient and the donor. On March 25, 2022, the surgery took place successfully at Manipal Hospital. Post-surgery, both Kakoli and Raya were closely monitored for three days and later discharged, marking the beginning of their renewed lives together.

Son's Selfless Act

In 2015, Sushila Javanth, a dedicated government school teacher, received a devastating diagnosis of kidney failure. Determined to find a solution, she learned about the success of a friend's kidney transplant in Gulbarga and decided to pursue an organ transplant. It was her son, 32-year-old Ravi Kumar, who stepped forward to donate his kidney, and she gratefully accepted the life-saving offer. The transplant surgery, performed by Dr Vishwanath S, HOD & Consultant - Nephrology, Transplant Physician at Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, took place on March 18, 2016.

Son's 'Saves' Mother's Life

Driven by love and gratitude, 21-year-old Tharun Kumar saved his mother's life by donating a part of his liver. 41-year-old Dhanalakshmi's life was hanging by a thread until her son's selfless act came to the rescue. Initially hesitant, the family gained confidence after discussions with Dr Sanjeev Rohatgi, Lead Consultant - Liver Transplant & HPB Surgery at Manipal Hospital Whitefield. The successful liver transplant took place on July 26, 2020, giving Dhanalakshmi a new lease on life.

Momentous occasion

Renowned Actress Amrutha Iyengar said, "I am grateful for the opportunity I was given to spend time with the most courageous individuals I have ever met in my life. Mothers are known for their selfless nature, often sacrificing their comfort and happiness to ensure the welfare of their children. But today, I feel overwhelmed by meeting these children who donated their organs to save their mothers' lives.

Karthik Rajagopal, COO, of Manipal Hospitals, "This is a testament to the deep and unconditioned love for their mother. It requires lots of courage and a profound understanding of the risks involved. Without considering their health, they have put their mothers ahead."

Manipal Hospitals Launches Community Connect Platform

Manipal Hospitals believes that communities play a crucial role in our lives, impacting our well-being significantly. They provide a sense of belonging, emotional support, practical assistance, and a social network that helps individuals navigate difficult times. Communities also foster social connections and relationships, combating loneliness and isolation while promoting a shared sense of purpose. Recognizing the potential for a tightly-knit community to facilitate learning and personal growth, Manipal Hospitals has launched the Community Connect platform. This innovative initiative aims to provide like-minded individuals with a space to showcase their talents and foster a sense of togetherness. Through community-based programs and initiatives, individuals can develop new skills, gain knowledge, and enhance their quality of life.

The introduction of the Community Connect platform holds numerous benefits for Manipal Hospitals as a healthcare provider. Firstly, it allows for improved patient engagement by enabling personalized communication with patients and their families. This closer connection fosters better health outcomes and increased patient satisfaction. Furthermore, the platform facilitates enhanced collaboration between patients and Manipal Hospitals. By sharing treatment journeys, initiating discussions, and providing testimonials, blogs, and other media, patients can actively participate in their treatment plans and instil confidence in their healthcare providers. Additionally, the Community Connect platform enables better patient outcomes. Through the tracking of patient outcomes and the utilization of data analytics, healthcare providers can identify areas for improvement, ensuring the delivery of high-quality care and tailored treatment plans.

Moreover, the platform increases efficiency by serving as a centralized resource. Patients can easily access relevant information about Manipal Hospitals' services and provide feedback on successful treatments. This consolidated portal acts as a comprehensive solution for all patient needs, streamlining the healthcare experience. Overall, Manipal Hospitals aims to build stronger relationships with patients and the community through the Community Connect platform. By fostering collaboration and leveraging the power of digital technology, the hospital strives to deliver better health outcomes and revolutionize the healthcare experience.

For more information contact Manipal Hospitals 1800 203 2999.

Why B'luru refused to ditch camp saffron

Massive roadshows, rebel trouble and presence of senior leaders helped BJP in IT capital

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Congress workers holding the party flag celebrate their win in the Karnataka assembly elections, outside Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru

While the BJP became a victim of the Congress surge across the state, the party leaders managed to retain their tally in the Indian IT capital and even increased it by one more seat. Analysts say that by continuing to hold its ground in Bengaluru, BJP may still have an edge over other parties in the BBMP polls, which are due for a long time.

Seniors are saviours

Political commentators say that the saffron party leaders had tried hard to gain their ground, including PM Modi dedicating three days to conduct roadshows and extensive campaigning by the party candidates. Currently, out of the 28 assembly segments in the city, BJP managed to win 16 (earlier it had 15 seats). Congress, which had won 13 seats during 2018, lost one this time, while JD(S) lost its lone seat (Dasarahalli). Another interesting trend for the BJP is that although the saffron party tried to replace its senior leaders elsewhere, it ensured tickets to senior leaders in the city. These senior leaders turned out to be their saviours. For example, R Ashoka (Padmanabhanagar) won for the seventh time, S Suresh Kumar (Rajajinagar) for the sixth time, S Raghu (CV Raman Nagar) for the fifth time, while SR Vishwanath (Yelahanka), Dr CN Ashwath Narayan (Malleswaram), Satish Reddy (Bommanahalli), LA Ravi Subramanya (Basavanagudi), and M Krishnappa (Bengaluru South) had their fourth straight wins. Even the turncoat MLAs like ST Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur), Muniratna (RR Nagar), Byrati Basavaraj (KR Puram), and K Gopalaiah (Mahalakshmi layout) won for the BJP.

Rebel trouble

On the other hand, the rebels created trouble for their party but couldn't win a seat in the city. For example, in Gandhi Nagar, BJP lost the battle by a narrow margin of 105 seats. However, BJP rebel candidate and former Minister Krishnaiah Setty polled 6,862 seats, and if he had not contested, those votes could possibly have been transferred to the BJP and helped the saffron candidate Sapthagiri Gowda win the seat. Rebel trouble haunted Congress too. KGF Babu snatched votes for the Congress, which helped the BJP candidate Uday Garudachar win his second term from Chickpet.

POLL VAULT

Lone woman MLA

There seems to be less gender diversity among the representatives. Out of the 28 MLAs in the city, only one is a woman. Despite three in the fray, Kusuma lost in RR Nagar, and Sowmya Reddy in Jayanagar, leaving Manjula Limbavali as the only woman MLA (Mahadevapura) from the city.

On the other hand, only ten women MLAs have been elected this time out of 185 candidates in Karnataka, including Laxmi Hebbalkar (Belagavi rural), Kaneez Fatima (Kalaburagi north), Latha Mallikarjun (Harapanahalli), Roopkala M (KGF), Nayana Motamma (Mudigere), Shashikala Jolle (Nippani), Sharada Puryanaik (Shivamogga rural), Bhagirathi Murulya (Sullia), and Karemma (Devadurga).

Losses for 7 ex-BBMP corporators

For BBMP corporators, the MLA seat is the stepping stone for their future political career. However, seven ex-corporators had to face defeat this time including BJP's Padmabha Reddy (Sarvagna Nagar), Umesh Shetty (Govindarajanagar), H Ravindra (Vijay Nagar), N Chandra (Shivajinagar) and K Shivakumar (Shantinagar). From Congress, Keshavamurthy failed to win from Mahalakshmi layout and S Anand Kumar from CV Raman Nagar.

Docs in Assembly

Interestingly, there are eight doctors-turned-netas in the Assembly including Dr CN Ashwath Narayan (Malleswaram), Dr Sharan R Prakash Patil (Sedam), Dr Manthar Gowda (Madikeri), Dr MC Sudhakar (Chintamani), Dr Chandru Lamani (Shirahatti), Dr N Srinivas NT (Kudligi), Dr Shivaraj Patil (Raichur), and Dr HD Ranganath (Kunigal).

National parties maintain their upper hand

The 2023 elections have once again proven the prominence of national parties while regional parties have had little to no effect. JD(S), a prominent regional party, has seen a reduction in seats. Many had expected that AAP would try to garner support after the party tried to win a few seats in Gujarat. However, AAP had a vote share of just 0.58 per cent. G Janardhana Reddy's party is yet to make a mark beyond Reddy as his wife failed to win in the Ballari stronghold. Even the AIMIM, which made inroads in other states, received a mere 0.02 per cent vote share. The BSP's vote share was 0.31 per cent, CPI, 0.02 per cent, and CPM, 0.06 per cent.

A look at the voter share shows that Congress, which has won the elections, had a vote share of 42.9 per cent, while BJP's vote share has been 36 per cent. The saffron party's vote share in the previous elections (2018) was 36.43 per cent, while Congress' was 38.61 per cent.

Even though the BJP did not lose much of its share, it was the erosion of the JD(S) vote base that has benefited Congress. JD(S) secured a 20.61 per cent vote share in 2018, which reduced to 13.3 per cent in 2023. The others had a 3.49 per cent vote share in 2018, which increased to 8.59 per cent this time. Surprisingly, the NOTA vote share, which was 0.86 per cent last time, has now reduced to 0.69 per cent.

BJP wrests Jayanagar seat by 16 votes

In a dramatic development on Saturday evening, the BJP wrested the Jayanagar Assembly seat in Bengaluru from the Congress party by a margin of only 16 votes, following which the latter has decided to complain to the Election Commission (EC).

— BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Not cool

Actor Kiccha Sudeep has been actively campaigning for BJP candidates. However, there have been a few occasions when the actor lost his cool during the process. During Monday's campaign at Shikaripura where Sudeep was accompanying the local candidate BY Vijayendra, he was constantly troubled by a person in the crowd. Sudeep decided to take him on and asked him to keep quiet. When the fan refused to be silenced, Sudeep said, "I am warning you for the last time to be silent or else I know how to discipline you people. Let me tell you I have come up here by working hard and hence I am here and you are there. I hope you understand this and allow us to continue to do our work."

Bus yatra

Last Monday was the last day of campaigning in Bengaluru, and Rahul Gandhi wanted to make the most of it. He interacted with college students and enquired about how far their college was. One of the college students told Gandhi, "Love you Sir." Gandhi responded by stating, "love you too" and showed a thumbs-up. He then hopped on to a BMTC bus. The conductor told journalists that he was initially apprehensive about whether Gandhi would buy a ticket or not, but the Gandhi scion personally asked to buy a ticket, and I was very relieved.

EVM worship

Before the Wednesday elections could begin, it was seen that a few officers were performing pooja for the Electronic Voting Machines. When journalists brought this to the notice of the Bengaluru District Election Officer Tushar Giri Nath, he said, "We have heard that some are offering pooja to EVM so that the machines function properly during elections. Though all of us pray that the elections should be free and fair and a hassle-free process, there is no special pooja required as all the EVMs are in good condition. I still feel that it is left to the consciousness of individual officers and their beliefs."

Heart matters

Film stars had a busy time during elections as most of them were seen campaigning for various party candidates. Veteran film actor Shivaraj Kumar was seen campaigning for Congress after his wife Geetha formally joined the party earlier. Kumar lost his cool when he was asked whether he was campaigning for the Congress as he was siding with the national party or he was just campaigning for the individual candidates. He told journalists, "We need to think from the heart and not the brain. Don't ask me the same question for the last one week."

Masking off

Sudha Murthy had come to vote on Wednesday along with her husband NR Narayanamurthy. After casting her vote, Sudha spoke to the media about the importance of voting while her husband was watching her speak. Looking at her husband, Sudha asked him to remove his mask so that people would know that it was none other than Narayana Murthy. As everyone burst into laughter, Narayana Murthy removed his mask with a smile.

— Sridhar Vivan

Tough call: Who will be the CM after all?

Congress leaders meet; call not yet final on who among Siddaramaiah and DKS will occupy that chair

Supporters of senior Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar gather outside the venue of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday

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POLL VAULT

Though the Congress party got a thumping majority in the Karnataka Assembly, choosing the next chief minister is turning out to be quite a task as both contenders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar have been pushing hard for their candidature.

All the MLAs turned up for the Congress legislature party meeting in the city at a hotel on Sunday evening. Though the MLAs were tight-lipped and chanted the unity mantra, supporters of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar tried to exhibit their show of strength by raising slogans. It is said the MLAs wanted the Congress president to take a call on the next CM.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Congress president Shivakumar hinted that he is in the chief ministerial race, saying that he took everyone along and never sought anything for himself. He also brushed aside speculations about differences between him and former chief minister Siddaramaiah. Many Vokkaliga pontiffs also batted for DKS. On the other hand Siddaramaiah is said to have claimed his candidature stating that this was his last election and given his age factor, he should be considered for the top post.

Earlier in the day, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge rushed back to Delhi and said that AICC observers will convey the opinion of the party's MLAs to the high command which will then take a final decision. Kharge said, "Our observers have gone to Bengaluru, they will reach in the evening. After that there will be a CLP meeting following which whatever opinion is there, it will be communicated to the high command."

Poster war erupts

After Congress achieved a major victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the supporters of top leaders have started poster wars demanding the coveted post for their leaders.

Supporters of Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar have started claiming that their leader should be made the CM. Huge posters have come up in front of the residences of both the leaders.

The posters put up by the Congress workers claimed that their leaders are going to become the Chief Minister of the state. Sources explained that both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are intensely lobbying for the post and talking to MLAs.

Amid all this, the supporters of Priyank Kharge, son of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, have also started a poster campaign demanding that he, a three-time MLA, should be made the CM.

"This is not only the dream of his father, it is the dream of all Kannadigas," reads a poster. A Twitter handle has also been created over the matter, said a source. -IANS

'All the best'

Outgoing Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday wished "all the best" to Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar, who are in the race to become the next Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The newly-elected Congress MLAs in Karnataka are meeting here this evening to discuss government formation with leaders eliciting their views on the Chief Ministerial candidate. Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President DK Shivakumar are strong claimants and frontrunners for the coveted post.

"I wish both of them all the best," Bommai told reporters here. He was responding to a question as to what he would like to tell Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, who are in the race to become the Chief Minister, as a friend.

To a question how will BJP focus on Congress implementing its manifesto, Bommai said, "Let them form the government and have the cabinet meet and spell out their decisions, let's see what will be implemented, let's wait and watch."

The Congress' has promised to implement 'guarantees' — 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), Rs 3,000 every month for graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) for two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti), on the very first day, on coming to power in the state. Following BJP's defeat, Bommai had on Saturday night submitted his resignation letter to the Karnataka Governor. -PTI

Independent MLA to support Cong

AICC general secretary incharge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday said Latha Mallikarjun, who has got elected as an independent from Harapanahalli Assembly segment has extended unconditional support to the Congress party in the State. Latha Mallikarjun, is daughter of veteran leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, late MP Prakash. "She has extended unconditional support to the Congress Party in Karnataka considering her ideological roots and commitment to Congress ideals. I thank her, her husband Mallikarjun and all the supporters and well wishers. We will serve the 6.5 Crore Kannadigas together," Surjewala said in a tweet.

Mallikarjun won by defeating BJP's G Karunakara Reddy. PTI

unitech

Unitech Invites 2nd Lot of Tenders

Pursuant to order dated 17.08.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in Civil Appeal 10856 of 2016 in the matter of "**Bhupinder Singh V/s Unitech Limited**", the new Management of M/s Unitech Limited had notified 1st Lot of 35 Tenders on 02.01.2023 for completion of various stalled projects.

In continuation thereof, the Company has now uploaded the 2nd Lot of 50 Tenders on Unitech's Website **http://etenders.unitechgroup.com** on 08.05.2023 and 09.05.2023, pertaining to various projects located at **Ambala and Gurugram (Haryana), Bangalore (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal), Mohali (Punjab), Lucknow and Noida (U.P).**

The interested parties may visit the Company's website **http://www.unitechgroup.com** through the tab "Tender Notice" or **https://etenders.unitechgroup.com** for all relevant details, like details of Works, locations, schedule of completion, estimated value of tenders and Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders (DNITs).

The interested parties can email their queries at **tenders@unitechgroup.com.**

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Unitech Group of Companies
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Lost mobile blocking, tracking system to be rolled out

People will be able to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across India with the rollout of a tracking system by the government this week, a senior government official said.

Technology development body Centre for Department of Telematics (CDoT) has been running the pilot of the CEIR system in some of the telecom circles, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and North East region, and the system is now ready for pan-India deployment, a DoT official, who did not wish to be identified, told PTI.

"CEIR system is scheduled for pan-India launch on May 17," the official said. When contacted, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Project Board at CDoT Rajkumar Upadhyay did not confirm the date but confirmed that the technology is ready for pan-India deployment.

"The system is ready and now it will be deployed across India in this quarter. This will enable people to block and track their lost mobile phones," Upadhyay said.

The government has made it mandatory to disclose IMEI -- a 15-digit unique numeric identifier – of mobile devices before their sale in India.

The mobile networks will have access to the list of approved IMEI numbers which will check the entry of any unauthorised mobile phones on their network. **PTI**

Discontinued bus routes uproot lives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mile connectivity. Subsequently, members of the communities along with the Purpose team made a representation to BMTC Chief Traffic Manager to address the issue.

As per the request, has been, made for AKG Colony, Mahadevapura (800 families), Hosa Nagar, CV Raman Nagar (180 families), Seegehalli, KR Puram (250 families), LR Nagar, Koramangala (4000 families), Priyanka Nagar (1200 families), Chikabanaswadi (600 families), Byrasandra (2,000 families), Vijaya Nagar (700 families), Marathahalli, Slum board Quarters Housing.

Senior campaigner at Purpose, Mallika Arya told BM, "We are working with women from the informal sector. The project aims at looking at mobility at the intersection of climate, gender, and employment. The audits conducted by these women have identified the death of mobility services in their areas. While some bus passes were announced for the organised sector, there is a need to increase the bus fleet and improve bus routes. After 2020, several bus routes were discontinued and are yet to be restarted. People from the communities distanced from access to mobility services are severely impacted as their livelihood and education of their children is hit."

Kala, a home caterer from Seegehalli, spoke about the issues they face. "We are asking for buses on the KR Puram-Medahalli- KR Puram route and another service from Seegehalli-Ayyapan Nagara. There are a few bus services being provided but they leave at 7:30 am. Without convenient bus timings, we are forced to use auto rickshaws and spend Rs 200," she said.

Lalita, a resident of Priyanka Nagara, said they have asked for a bus service between KR Puram to Bhattarahalli signal. "A lot of students commute to KR

Puram to attend school. Without buses, parents have to drop their wards to school or use auto rickshaws. Before covid, these routes were functional and were very convenient for us."

Feeder bus request

Additionally, the group also proposed feeder buses along KR Puram to Medahalli and return, Byappanahalli metro feeder loop via Kalyan Nagar, Chikkabanaswadi, SMV Railway Terminal, SV Metro Station and return to Byappanahalli back gate, Hope Farm metro feeder loop via Channasandra Jn, Whitefield Railway Station, Whitefield metro, Hope Farm metro and return to Channasandra Jn, Byrasandra feeder bus loop to Wilson Garden and back, For Byrasandra, we are also considering a proposal of the new route and schedules from Byrasandra to Market & Shivajinagar. Two buses go and come back to Byrasandra, once in the morning and once in the evening.

Time to get cracking is now

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as expanding the footpaths (mentioned in the manifesto), cycle tracks, bus priority lanes across the city are critical for this," said Shaheen Shasa from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV).

Along with this, the promise to address the grievances of RTC (Road Transport Corporation) staff regarding parity with other government services and issues with the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), needs to be resolved, she said. "More importantly, there is an urgent need to revisit the city planning processes and practices, and create a vision and plan for the city with public participation. The concerns citizens have been raising about master planning and functioning of MPC (Metropolitan Planning Committee) need to be urgently resolved in consultation with the public and all mobility planning should stem from such a democratic vision and plan for the city," she explained.

Srinivas Alavilli, fellow at the World Resources Institute (WRI), said, "Rule of law is the most fundamental responsibility of the government and without peace, there is no prosperity. I'm expecting the new government to focus on creating opportunities for all children of our state, regardless of the circumstances of birth. Government's job is to provide free and quality education and healthcare to all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable citizens."

He added that the government has so many unfilled positions and recruitment must begin soon. "For Bengaluru, massive governance reforms along with funds are needed to manage our crown jewel and ensure it keeps growing," he said.

Rajkumar Dugar of Citizens for Citizens (C4C) said that while Metro works in the city have steadily picked up pace in the past few years, bus and suburban rail services are in desperate need of attention. "The cutting of trees and planting them needs to be streamlined. While the cutting takes place with ease, the planting and taking care is all on paper as the ground reality says otherwise," he said.

Dugar added that rain water harvesting at public spaces must be made a priority as currently only those sites that are above the dimensions of 40×60ft are mandated to harvest rainwater and they cover about 30-40% of the city. "We have been without a municipal body in the past three years. Only when there is a corporator can there be any accountability, or else it is like groping in the dark. Even in the ward committee meetings, there is no sanctity to the promises made. Only when there is an elected representative, there is hope for something happening," he explained.

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I Benjamin Nelson Maria S/O, Nelson R/o #7, 2nd Floor, 4th Main, Siddhivinayaka Layout, Virupakshapura, Bengaluru - 560097. have changed my name to Benjamin Nelson Mariaselvi

I Ashok Kumar S/O, Moolchandra R/o #106, 9th Cross, Domlur Village, Bangalore Karnataka 560071 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Rajpoot

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HEALTH TIP: Laughter is known to have many health benefits, including reducing stress, boosting immunity, and even improving cardiovascular health

Cold showers have been shown to have a variety of health benefits, including improving circulation and reducing muscle soreness

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Loneliness is damaging

..but as much as smoking 15 cigarettes a day?

Vivek Murthy, US surgeon general, recently warned that "being socially disconnected" has a similar effect on mortality as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. This statement was widely reported in the media. But where does this "15 cigarettes a day" figure come from?

Dr Murthy is referring to a study published in 2010 that explored social relationships and mortality rates. The researchers combined the data from 148 studies on the topic, in what is known as a "meta-analysis", to arrive at a more robust statistical answer to their questions.

The meta-analysis contained data on 300,000 participants who were studied for an average of seven and a half years. The researchers explored the extent to which social relationships can influence the risk of premature death, the aspects of social relationships that are most likely to predict an early death, and any factors that mitigate the risk.

They concluded that lonely people are 50 per cent more likely to die prematurely than people with strong social relationships. They then used a statistical tool called "random effects models" to compute that the influence of social relationships on the risk of death is comparable to well-established risk factors for death, such as smoking cigarettes.

Although the methodology the researchers used was sound – and loneliness is certainly damaging for health – it could be argued that the "equivalent to 15 cigarettes a day" analogy is sensationalist.

The researchers also pointed out that the health risks of loneliness are similar to alcohol consumption (more than six drinks a day) and exceed other risk factors, such as physical inactivity and obesity. Yet these comparisons are rarely mentioned in the media or keynote speeches as they don't have the same impact as smoking.

The smoking comparison also has the potential to add to the burden of people who feel lonely and exacerbate the stigma associated with loneliness.

> **Researchers also pointed out that health risks of loneliness are similar to alcohol consumption (more than six drinks a day)**

However, the effectiveness of the analogy cannot be underestimated. Thirteen years on, the paper continues to raise awareness about loneliness and the associated damaging health consequences.

Studies that didn't grab the headlines

Other studies that are just as robust, but perhaps fail to grab the headlines in the same way, have likewise shown a range of health conditions associated with loneliness and social isolation, including heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer. Even recovery following heart surgery can be compromised by isolation.

Mental health conditions can also be triggered by loneliness, including loss of hope, depression, problems with sleep, alcohol abuse and other psychiatric disorders. Lonely people also have heightened sensitivity to social threat. It is believed loneliness has an evolutionary function that is felt in a similar way to hunger or thirst and is a signal to people to change their lifestyle and social connections. However, when loneliness becomes chronic it can be different to break out of and for people to know how to overcome the negative feelings they are experiencing.

Loneliness is also associated with an increased risk of developing dementia.

The number of people experiencing loneliness increased sharply during the pandemic, including among young adults. The pandemic also accelerated societal transformations, such as remote working and online shopping, that have exacerbated the loneliness epidemic.

The need to address loneliness is further heightened by its costs to health services, businesses and economies.

So, while Dr Murthy is correct – loneliness can harm your health as much as smoking – there are also many other ways of measuring its harmful impacts.

-By Andrea Wigfield, Jan Gurung and Laura Makey, Sheffield Hallam University (The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Traffic-related air pollution could affect brain function

According to a study from the University of California, Irvine, exposure to traffic-related air pollution causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and the activation of brain pathways linked to the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

Masashi Kitazawa, PhD, associate professor of environmental and occupational health in the UCI Programme in Public Health, is the corresponding and senior author of the study. "The link between air pollution and Alzheimer's disease is concerning, as the prevalence of toxicants in ambient air is not just on the rise globally, but also hitting close to home here in Irvine," he said. The effects of particulate matter on brain function are not limited to what our studies show.

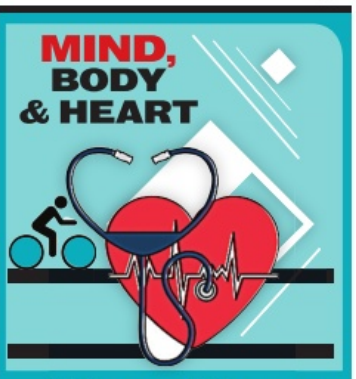
Although genetic predispositions are known to play a prominent role in disease progression, growing bodies of evidence suggest that environmental toxicants, specifically air pollution, may cause the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

Kitazawa and his team compared mouse models at two ages. Researchers exposed a group of 3- and 9-month-old mouse models to ultrafine particulate matter for 12 weeks via ambient air collected in Irvine. A second group was exposed to purified air. Researchers conducted testing related to memory tasks and cognitive function and found that both benchmarks were impaired by exposure to particulate matter. Notably, they also discovered that their older models (12 months at the time of analysis) showed brain plaque build-up and glial cell activation, which are both known to increase inflammation associated with the onset of Alzheimer's.

"Air pollution is one of the very few prominent, modifiable environmental risk factors in Alzheimer's disease," said co-author Michael Kleinman. "Public and environmental regulatory agencies need to accelerate efforts to reduce particulate matter levels in order to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other serious health conditions."

—ANI

MIND, BODY & HEART



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

In 2014, my mother-in-law left my father-in-law. My husband struggled with her decision initially, but we maintained a good relationship.
Then photos appeared on social media of his mother at an event with another man, who turned out to be her new partner.
He felt hurt that she hadn't told him face to face.
We didn't have contact with her for a few weeks and when she next saw us, my husband asked if she'd felt it was right that he'd found out about her partner via social media.
She just blamed the person who'd posted the pictures. She then got offended when he asked how long she'd been seeing this guy.
I think she felt my husband was suggesting she'd been seeing him while she was still with his dad.
After nearly a year of no contact, I called her to tell her I was expecting our first child, but she never got in touch during the pregnancy, so we didn't tell her when our son was born. Should we make contact? She's missing out on so much, but is that our fault?

COLEEN SAYS

I think this all goes back to your husband taking the separation badly and then perhaps she felt judged when he questioned her about her partner.
Maybe she was worried about telling him face to face because of the reaction she might get. I think it's possible she felt he disapproved.
The bottom line is, if her marriage wasn't happy, it's her choice to leave.
Surely, if Covid has taught us anything, it's how important it is to invest in important relationships?
Be the bigger person – offer an olive branch and the opportunity to talk things out. Do you not think your children deserve the chance to know their grandmother?

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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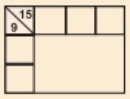
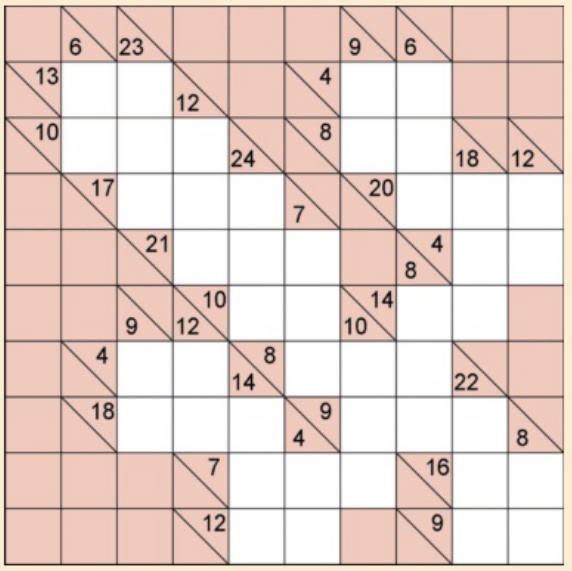
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

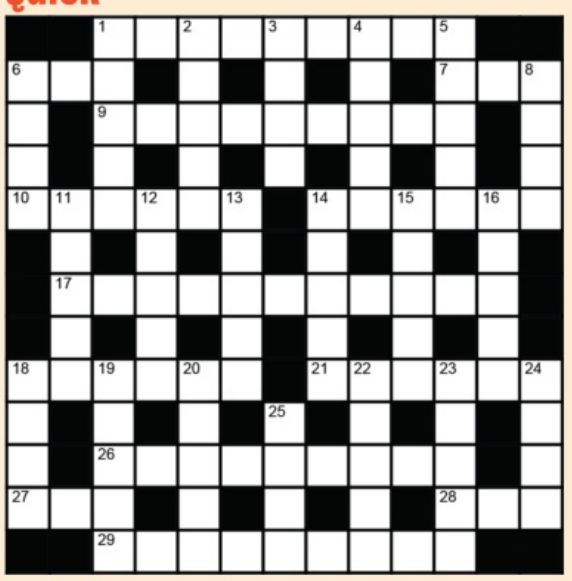


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Gristle (9)
6 Pod vegetable (3)
7 Sever (3)
9 Under an assumed name (9)
10 Uttered (6)
14 Servile, mean or low (6)
17 Business enterprise (11)
18 Road built to avoid a city (6)
21 Accommodated (6)
26 Rice noodle delicacy of Karnataka (4,5)
27 Addressee (3)
28 Not high (3)
29 Controversial (9)

DOWN

1 Capital of Egypt (5)
2 Military reconnaissance (5)
3 Othello's false friend (4)
4 Tolerate; dwell (5)
5 Intestinal bacteria (1,4)
6 Special loved ones (4)
8 Narrate (4)
11 Baby borzoi (5)
12 Destiny, fate (5)
13 Well dressed numbers! (5)
14 Swampland (5)
15 India's first P.M. (5)
16 Common fruit (5)
18 Occupied (4)
19 Photo of a popstar perhaps (3-2)
20 Backless seat (5)
22 Of the eye (5)
23 Cranium (5)
24 Make a sketch (4)
25 Junk mail (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS P

CDD KOPW SXDSQX OYX CIVP-FVPU DB TXZAYVCW VPTCXOE DB DSSDYCAPVCW. CIXW TXXK KDYX OBYOVE DB QVBX CIOP EXOCI.

Linemaro

I swear no matter what challenges might carry us apart, we will always find a way back to each other

Mindchow

To grow old is to pass from passion to compassion

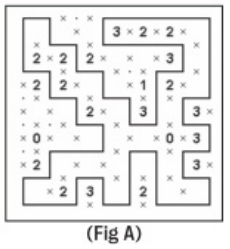
Joke of the day

Teacher: What is further away, Australia or the Moon? Little Johnny: Australia, you can see the Moon at night

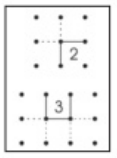
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

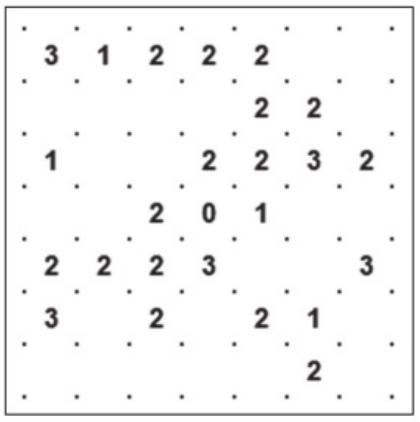


(Fig B) Not Allowed

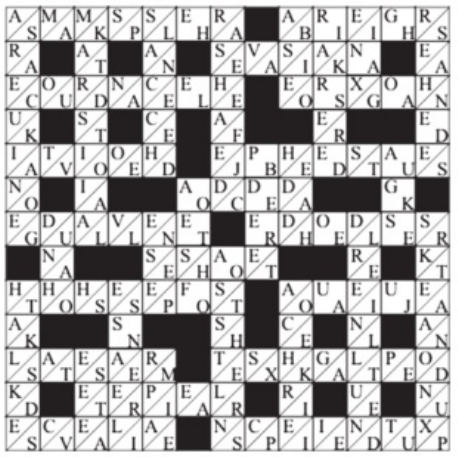
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



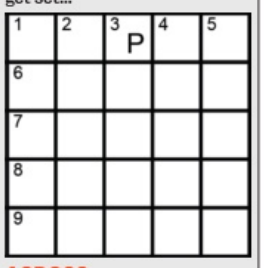
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

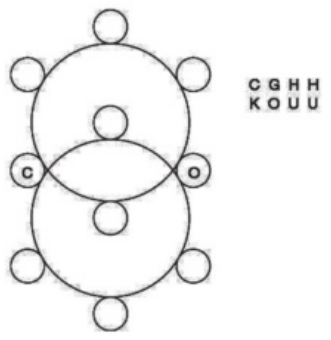
1 Lam up; 6 No reb;
7 Baled; 8 Hi tec;
9 So Hug

DOWN

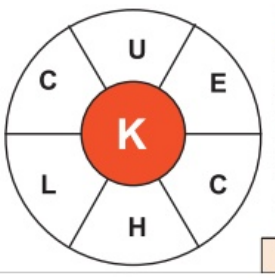
1 Babes; 2 Mo lot;
3 Rah up; 4 Dug in;
5 Cheel

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the letters to make two birds of six letters.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

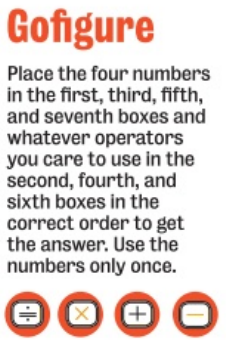
SudokuChallenge

				7			6	4
7	9				6	2		
8					2			
9	7			5		4		8
1								3
4		8		9			5	6
			7					1
		7	4				9	2
3	5			8				

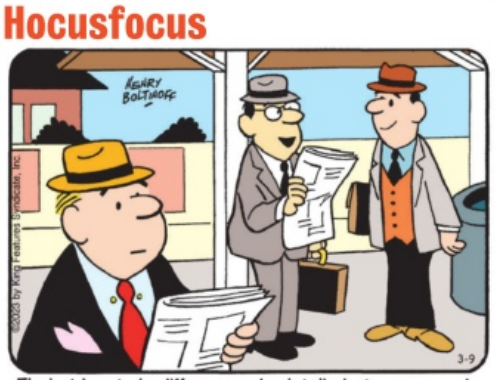
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

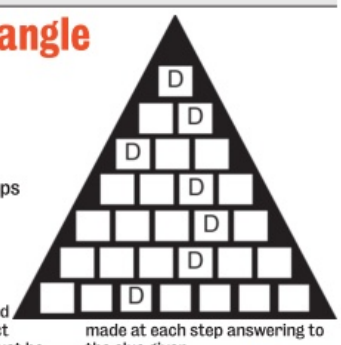
Differences: 1. Newspaper is longer. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Lapel is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Handkerchief is different.

Riddler

We are many guards of a precious gate
Sometimes we lean backward and sometimes we stand straight
Some of us are short and some are tall
We never quit the fight but we might fall
We wear war paint and cover in black
We always defend but never will attack

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Editor, abbr.
3 Ball girl
4 Kips or cots
5 Rosary pieces
6 Residences
7 Spanish wine shops



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

BEING WHITE, SNOWSNAKES ARE MIGHTY HARD TO SEE
BUT I SEE THAT ONE!
WHAP
THAT STUPID SALESMAN SAID ARGYLE SOCKS WERE THE THING!
2-24

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

I'M IN SPRING TRAINING FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY
HOW DO YOU TRAIN FOR THAT?
I SIT IN A ROOM WITH 10,000 MOSQUITOES AND LOOK UP
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

$15
$20
$10
THIS IS THE ONE I WANT.
$30
$60
$70
HEART, I'M NOT PAYING $60 FOR A TUMBLER.
BUT THIS IS THE BRAND EVERYONE AT SCHOOL HAS!
THEN LET'S GET THE GENERIC BRAND AND COVER IT IN STICKERS SO NO ONE WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.
OOOH! GOOD IDEA, MOM!
IF YOU CAN'T BE RICH, YOU CAN ALWAYS BE CRAFTY.
BEEP!

Crankshaft

LILLIAN, THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND, PETE... THE COMIC BOOK WRITER.
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO WRITE MY BIO?
LET'S CALL IT AN ORIGIN STORY!
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, there may be peace in the mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity in your business. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in family life. Singles may likely find a suitable match. Love birds may make the decision to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be very happy. Your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You may likely see some changes in your place, position, or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed works. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains may likely convert into losses.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may get some business orders which may be profitable in the near future. You may implement some new ideas in your work front. New partnerships may come into the ground. You may be busy with your work, which may make you mentally tired. It may affect your domestic life.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you perform well at your job. Your colleagues may cooperate with you. Your performance at the job may be good. You may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. Job seekers may get a new job. Positive news for the natives affected by old health issues.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, situations are now ok, and people around you may now respond to you. But you are advised not to take life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties in easy gains. Somehow, blessings from elders may help you to come out of this situation. Your confusions in choosing targets may now be finished.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, tasks become incomplete. You may be a victim of mood swings, and your patience may be tested many times. Silly mistakes make you confused to conclude your work. Love birds find themselves confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment to the spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose their concentration.

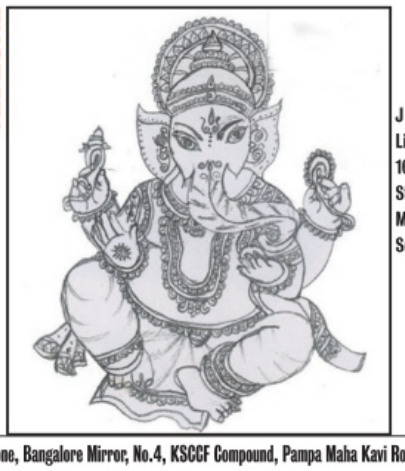
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you will be glad. You will be able to maintain a balance between your earning and expenditure, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. Plan to visit elders or a spiritual place.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your energy levels will be high, so it will make you happy and optimistic to fulfill your desires with the help of hard work. You will plan to go for outings with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will see good news in terms of study.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, until late afternoon, the day may not be good for you, and you may feel unhappy and nervous. However, after noon onwards, you will feel happier, and your internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You should avoid being careless while making decisions related to finance, profession, and studies. Sometimes, you may face self-respect issues with your spouse, and you need to be patient to avoid converting happy moments into bad moments. Love birds may plan for short trips.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your tendency to overspend may affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front. It is advised to avoid lending money and postpone making important decisions related to real estate and other assets. You should try to avoid a tendency to shirk your responsibilities.

KIDZONE



J Celestine Liza,
16 Years,
St Pius X Matric High School

M Shainisha,
15 Years,
Our Lady Of Ron's High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
8i/7i/6i = 8/6i,
7i/6i/6i = 6/5i,
6i/5i/4i = 6/4i,
5i/4i/3i = 5/3i,
(8/6i)÷(7/5i) = 8/42,
(8/42)÷(6/4i) = 32/42,
(32/42)÷(5/3i) = 32/35,
32/35+3+35 = 1

BULL'S EYE
check, chuck, CHUCKLE, cluck, heck, hulk, luck

FAST FIVE

A	M	P	U	L
B	O	R	N	E
B	L	A	D	E
E	T	H	I	C
S	O	U	G	H

STRIKE OUT

S	A	M	P	L	E	R	B	R	I	G	H	S		
A	A	A	E	V	I	A	N	N	A					
C	O	R	A	C	L	E		O	R	G	A	N		
K	T	E	F	E	D									
I	V	I	E	D		E	P	H	E	S	U	S		
N	A	O	D	E	A			K						
T	O	S	S	P	O	T		O	U	I	J	A		
N	S	H	O	T		R	T							
G	U	L	L	E	T	R	H	O	D	E	S			
P	A	R	T	N	E	R	S	H	I	P				
B	Y	P	A	S	S		H	O	U	S	E	D		
P	M	E	S	R	L									
Y	O	U	A	I	L	O	W							
S	N	O	O	L	P	U	T	T	U	A				
U	I	T	S	P	K	R								
S	T	E	A	M	E	X	H	A	L	E	D			
A	N	H	C	L	N									
T	R	I	E	R	R	E	U							
K	A	E	V	I	A	N	A							
S	A	M	P	L	E	R	B	R	I	G	S			

QUICK

P	O	L	E	M	I	C	A	L						
Y	O	U	A	I	L	O	W							
S	N	O	O	L	P	U	T	T	U	A				
U	I	T	S	P	K	R								
B	Y	P	A	S	S	H	O	U	S	E	D			
P	M	E	S	R	S	H	I	P						
P	A	R	T	N	E	R	S	H	I	P				
U	A	I	A	E	P									
S	P	O	K	E	N	M	E	N	I	A	L			
T	R	C	O	D	L	L								
E	I	N	C	O	G	N	I	T	O					
P	E	A	E	A	B	C	U	T						
C	A	R	T	I	L	A	G	E						

MENSA PUZZLE
cuckoo, chough.

RIDDLER
Eye lashes

QUOTE UNCODE
Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than death.

SUDOKU

3	5	1	2	9	7	8	3	6	4
6	8	7	4	1	3	5	9	2
2	4	9	7	6	5	8	3	1
4	2	8	3	9	7	1	5	6
1	6	5	8	2	4	9	7	3
9	7	3	6	5	1	4	2	8
8	3	6	5	4	2	7	1	9
7	9	4	1	3	6	2	8	5
5	1	2	9	7	8	3	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Ed, Deb, Beds, Beads, Abodes, Bodegas.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 4 − 5 + 8 = 16
Medium
5 + 3 − 3 / 5 = 1
Hard
7 + 2 − 7 x 5 = 10

LOOP

KAKURO

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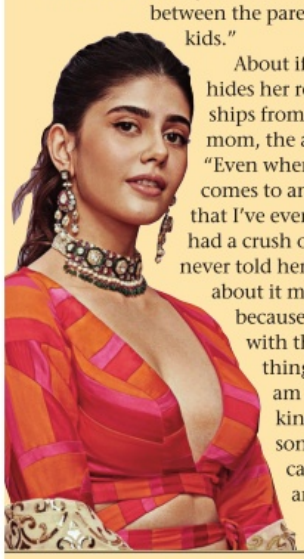
She is mommy's girl

Actor Sanjana Sanghi enjoys a pleasant and rock-solid bond with her mother Shagun Sanghi as she explains her as the strongest pillar of her life from whom she cannot hide anything ever.

Sanjana who is busy with script-reading sessions reveals what kind of bond she has with her mother. She narrates, "I think anyone who knows me, knows how close my mom and I are and she is my superpower and my main backbone. Ever since my brother and I were little, my parents brought us up in a way that we always felt comfortable sharing any and everything with them but of course, given that there is always that boundary between the parents and kids."



About if she hides her relationships from her mom, the actor said, "Even when it comes to anyone that I've ever dated or had a crush on, I have never told her upfront about it majorly because I am shy with these things but I am also a kind of person who can't hide anything."

–ANI

India at Cannes

A Mumbai-set police noir by an indie cinema flag-bearer, a student film from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and a restored print of a Manipuri classic will formally represent the world's most productive movie industry at the 76th Cannes Film Festival from May 16 to 27.

Kashyap has made numerous trips to the French Riviera (as a director or a producer) since 2012. But "Kennedy", one of five films in Midnight Screenings, marks a Cannes first for the writer-director.

"Kennedy", produced by Zee Studios and Kashyap's newfangled Good Bad Films, is the director's first narrative feature to make the Cannes official selection cut.

In 2013, the four-part "Bombay Talkies" was part of the festival's Special Screenings section. Kashyap helmed "Murabba", a segment of the portmanteau, with Karan Johar, Dibakar Banerjee and Zoya Akhtar directing the other short fiction films.

IANS

Don't mess with mama

5 iconic on-screen mothers who went to great lengths to safeguard their kids

Rani Mukerji

Rani Mukerji in 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway' 'Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway' starring Rani Mukerji in the lead role is directed by Ashima Chibber and was released in March 2023. The film is based on the real-life story of an Indian mother, Bhavna Chatterjee, who fought against the Norwegian Child Welfare Services to regain custody of her children. Rani Mukerji's character fought against the Norwegian foster care system and legal machinery to prove her point.

It is true that Indian Hindi cinema has evolved in its portrayal of women as mothers. As we celebrated Mother's Day, here is the list of five iconic on-screen mothers who redefined motherhood in Bollywood:

Sridevi

Late Sridevi's performance in her last movie 'Mom' was considered to be one of her best performances. In the film, she plays the role of a mother who sets out on a dangerous revenge mission to seek justice for her sexually abused daughter. Her portrayal of a mother fighting for justice in the face of overwhelming odds was a powerful message for audiences. The film's themes of motherhood, sacrifice, and revenge resonated deeply with viewers. Sridevi's performance was a standout aspect of the movie. Her legacy as one of Bollywood's most outstanding actresses is further cemented by her powerful performance in Ravi Udyawar directed film, 'Mom'. 2.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

'Jazbaa' was a powerful and emotional film that showcased Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's acting prowess. Her portrayal of Anuradha, a mother who will stop at nothing to save her daughter, was both heart-wrenching and inspiring. Rai's performance in the film was widely acclaimed, and she was praised for her ability to convey a range of emotions, from desperation and fear to strength and determination. Her character's struggle to balance her commitment to justice with her love for her daughter was a powerful message for audiences, and the film's themes of motherhood and sacrifice resonated deeply with viewers. As an honest lawyer, and a single mother who finds herself in a middle of a do-or die situation where an attorney is forced to defend an unsavoury criminal after her daughter is kidnapped. Now above her honesty, she'll have to save a rapist from a death sentence, as ransom.

Nargis

Nargis's portrayal of Radha in Mehboob Khan's 'Mother India' is one of the most iconic performances in the history of Indian cinema. The film, released on October 25, 1957, tells the story of a woman who is forced to become the sole breadwinner for her family after her husband's arms are crushed by a boulder. Nargis' character in the film is a powerful and inspiring mother who faces countless hardships and obstacles in her life, yet remains determined to provide for her family and protect her children. '

Kriti Sanon

'Mimi' is a Hindi language film starring Kriti Sanon in the lead role, directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Dinesh Vijan. The film tells the story of a young woman named Mimi who agrees to become a surrogate mother for a foreign couple, hoping to use the money to fulfil her dream of becoming an actress. However, the biological parents back out when they learn that the child will be born with Down syndrome. Mimi then decides to raise the child on her own and faces several challenges and societal pressures.

Beyonce's tip to Halle

Rising Hollywood star Halle Bailey said that she is glad to have a bonafide Hollywood superstar like Beyonce on her side as she continues to find fame.

The 23-year-old actress and singer will soon be taking over the box-office as Ariel in a live version adaptation of Disney's 'The Little Mermaid', reports mirror.co.uk.

The lavish adaptation is set to hit screens later this month when fans will finally be able to see Halle swim, splash and sing her way through the iconic musical.

When her casting was announced back in July 2019, vile racist comments were directed towards Halle via social media.

Halle revealed that she was able to turn to a mega star for advice on how to handle the situation. She said: "I had a private conversation with Beyonce who told me not to read the comments on any social media I post. It's kind of sad - but very good advice for your mental health."

"I started in the industry so young that mental health has always been something I have tried to prioritise."

Halle and her sister Chloe have a bond with Beyonce who offered them a record deal after seeing them cover one of her songs on YouTube.